

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Region II
26 Federal Plaza
New York, New York 10278

APR 6 1987

Richard T. Dewling
Commissioner
New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection
401 E. State Street
Trenton, New Jersey 08625

Re: Duane Marine Site, Perth Amboy, New Jersey

Dear Commissioner Dewling:

The purpose of my letter is to inform you that EPA has accomplished the removal activities you requested at the Duane Marine site, and to confirm that your Department will reassume the lead for future activities.

In late 1984 the Department requested that EPA conduct an Immediate Removal Action at the Duane Marine site. In response to that request, EPA proceeded to conduct a responsible party search for this site. As a result of this effort, the Agency was able to issue administrative orders to approximately fifty responsible parties; the orders required the elimination of the imminent hazards through the performance of a surficial cleanup. The cleanup consisted primarily of the proper off-site disposal of hazardous substances contained in thousands of drums and numerous other vessels, as well as the removal of some visibly contaminated soil. The significant environmental cleanup required by the administrative orders at Duane Marine has now been completed.

Duane Marine is representative of a group of sites at which EPA has conducted a removal action which eliminates any imminent and substantial threat to health or the environment, but the sites are not on the Superfund National Priorities List. In many cases residual contamination remains which may require additional investigation and ultimate remedial action.

I believe that the Duane Marine site is an ideal candidate for further remedial investigation, as possible remedial action, using appropriate state authorities. In addition, I believe that other sites, such as the Scientific Chemical Processing site in Newark, where the removal will soon be completed, should be handled in a similar manner. We will notify the Department upon completion of these removal actions.

In order to facilitate contact between the Department and the responsible parties, EPA has provided the results of our responsible party search to Dhruva Kanjarpane, of your staff. The parties are well-organized and have formed a Steering Committee who represented all the companies in negotiations with EPA.

If we can be of any further assistance, please let me know.

Sincerely,

/s/ Christopher J. Daggett

Christopher J. Daggett,
Regional Administrator

list. In many cases, however, the removal of hazardous waste requires additional investigation and site remedial action.